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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Washington, D. C.

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OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO
(U. S. Types 21, 22, 23, and 24)

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of Agriculture by The Tobacco Inspection Act, approved August 23, 1935 (49 Stat., 751), I, H. A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, do prescribe and promulgate the following grades for Virginia Fire-cured Tobacco, Type 21, Southern Fire-cured Tobacco, Type 22, Western Fire-cured Tobacco, Type 23, and Northern Fire-cured Tobacco, Type 24, to be known as the Official Standard Grades for Fire-cured Tobacco (U. S. Types 21, 22, 23, and 24), to be in force and effect immediately. These official standard grades shall supersede the present standard grades for fire-cured tobacco promulgated on May 14, 1936.

PREPARED UNDER AUTHORITY OF
THE TOBACCO INSPECTION ACT
(49 Stat., 731)

December 1939

(Title 7, Chapter I, Part 29)

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Sec. 29.101 Wrapper grades (A-group).

General Specifications: All grades of the A group must be clean, sound, ripe, firm, and strong; must have an open tissue, bright finish, small to medium size and blending fibers, and over 16" long. General tolerance, 5% injury of a nature affecting wrapper yield.

U. S.

GRADE	GRADE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
	Choice Quality Wrapper in Brown Color.
A1F	Very silky, very fine texture, very elastic, very oily, thin to medium body, broad, over 20" long, uniform in quality and color. Tolerance, 10% leaves of a quality not lower than B3 or C2.
	Choice Quality Wrapper in Dark Color.
A1D	Rich in oil, heavy body, otherwise same as A1F.
	Fine Quality Wrapper in Brown Color.
A2F	Silky, fine texture, elastic, very oily, thin to medium body, spready, harmonizing in quality and color. Tolerance, 20% leaves of a quality not lower than B3 or C3.
	Fine Quality Wrapper in Dark Color.
A2D	Rich in oil, heavy body, otherwise same as A2F.
	Good Quality Wrapper in Brown Color.
A3F	Very smooth, good texture, elastic, oily, thin to medium body, normal width, unmingled in quality and color. Tolerance, 40% leaves of a quality not lower than B3 or C3.
	Good Quality Wrapper in Dark Color.
A3D	Heavy body, otherwise same as A3F.

Sec. 29.102 Heavy leaf grades (B-group).

General Specifications: All grades of the B group must be clean, sound, medium to heavy body, and over 16" long. B1 and B2 qualities must be smooth and very oily, and must have an open tissue, good texture, medium size and blending fibers, and over 18" long.

U. S.

GRADE	GRADE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
	Choice Quality Stouts in Brown Color.
B1F	Fairly elastic, ripe, firm, strong, spready, very clear finish, uniform in quality and color. Tolerance, 5% injury and 10% leaves of the quality of B3, C3, or better.
	Choice Quality Stouts in Dark Color.
B1D	Rich in oil, heavy body, otherwise same as B1F.
	Fine Quality Stouts in Brown Color.
B2F	Stretchy, ripe, firm, strong, normal width, clear finish, harmonizing in quality and color. Tolerance, 10% injury and 20% leaves the quality of B3, C3, or better.
	Fine Quality Stouts in Dark Color.
B2D	Rich in oil, heavy body, otherwise same as B2F.
	Good Quality Stouts in Brown Color.
B3F	Fairly smooth, fair texture, stretchy, oily, ripe, firm, strong, not stringy, normal finish, unmingled in quality and color. Tolerance, 15% injury and 5% Lugs the quality of X2 or better.

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Heavy leaf grades (B-group) (Cont'd.).

U. S. GRADE	GRADE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
	Good Quality Stouts in Dark Color.
B3D	Very oily, heavy body, otherwise same as B3F.
	Good Quality Stouts Mixed in Color.
B3M	Average Quality of B3 or better.
	Good Quality Stouts in Green Color.
B3G	Quality of B3 or better, except maturity.
	Fair Quality Stouts in Brown Color.
B4F	Not rough, fairly oily, fairly ripe, fairly firm, normal strength, unmixed in color. Tolerance, 20% injury and 10% Lugs the quality of X3 or better.
	Fair Quality Stouts in Dark Color.
B4D	Heavy body, otherwise same as B4F.
	Fair Quality Stouts Mixed in Color.
B4M	Average quality of B4.
	Fair Quality Stouts in Green Color.
B4G	Quality of B4, except maturity.
	Low Quality Stouts in Brown Color.
B5F	Unmixed in color. Tolerance, 40% injury and 25% Lugs the quality of X3 or better.
	Low Quality Stouts in Dark Color.
B5D	Specifications same as B5F.
	Low Quality Stouts Mixed in Color.
B5M	Average quality of B5.
	Low Quality Stouts in Green Color.
B5G	Quality of B5.

Sec. 29.103 Thin leaf grades (C-group).

General Specifications: All grades of the C group must be clean, sound, of thin to medium body, and over 16" long. C1 and C2 qualities must be very smooth and oily, must have good texture, small to medium size and blending fibers, and over 18" long.

U. S. GRADE	GRADE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
	Choice Quality Thins in Light Color.
C1L	Fairly elastic, ripe, firm, strong, spready, very clear finish, uniform in quality and color. Tolerance, 5% injury and 10% leaves the quality of C3, B3, or better.
	Choice Quality Thins in Brown Color.
C1F	Specifications same as C1L.
	Fine Quality Thins in Light Color.
C2L	Fairly stretchy, ripe, firm, strong, normal width, clear finish, harmonizing in quality and color. Tolerance, 10% injury and 20% leaves the quality of C3, B3, or better.
	Fine Quality Thins in Brown Color.
C2F	Specifications same as C2L.
	Fine Quality Thins in Dark Color.
C2D	Specifications same as C2L.

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Thin leaf grades (C-group) (Cont'd.).

U. S. GRADE	GRADE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
	Good Quality Thins in Light Color.
C3L	Smooth, fairly oily, fairly ripe, firm, strong, not stringy, normal finish, unmingled in quality and color. Tolerance, 15% injury and 5% Lugs the quality of X2 or better.
	Good Quality Thins in Brown Color.
C3F	Specifications same as C3L.
	Good Quality Thins in Dark Color.
C3D	Specifications same as C3L.
	Good Quality Thins Mixed in Color.
C3M	Average quality of C3 or better.
	Good Quality Thins in Pale Green Color.
C3G	Quality of C3 or better, except maturity.
	Fair Quality Thins in Light Color.
C4L	Not coarse, lean, fairly ripe, normal strength, unmixed in color. Tolerance, 20% injury and 10% Lugs the quality of X3 or better.
	Fair Quality Thins in Brown Color.
C4F	Specifications same as C4L.
	Fair Quality Thins in Dark Color.
C4D	Specifications same as C4L.
	Fair Quality Thins Mixed in Color.
C4M	Average quality of C4.
	Fair Quality Thins in Pale Green Color.
C4G	Quality of C4, except maturity.
	Low Quality Thins in Light Color.
C5L	Unmixed in color. Tolerance, 40% injury and 25% Lugs the quality of X3 or better.
	Low Quality Thins in Brown Color.
C5F	Specifications same as C5L.
	Low Quality Thins in Dark Color.
C5D	Specifications same as C5L.
	Low Quality Thins Mixed in Color.
C5M	Average quality of C5.
	Low Quality Thins in Pale Green Color.
C5G	Quality of C5.

Sec. 29.104 Short leaf or tips (T-group).

General Specifications: All grades of the T group must be clean, sound, and shall consist of leaf tobacco which is too short to meet the specifications for U. S. Size 44.

U. S. GRADE	GRADE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
	Good Quality Tips in Brown Color.
T3F	Fairly smooth, fair texture, stretchy, oily, ripe, firm, medium to heavy body, strong, normal finish, unmingled in quality and color. Tolerance, 15% injury and 5% Lugs the quality of X2 or better.

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Short leaf or tips (T-group) (Cont'd.).

U. S. GRADE	GRADE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
	Good Quality Tips in Dark Color.
T3D	Very oily, heavy body, otherwise same as T3F.
	Good Quality Tips Mixed in Color.
T3M	Average quality of T3.
	Good Quality Tips in Green Color.
T3G	Quality of T3, except maturity.
	Fair Quality Tips in Brown Color.
T4F	Unrough, fairly oily, fairly ripe, medium body, normal strength, unmixed in color. Tolerance, 20% injury and 10% Lugs the quality of X3 or better.
	Fair Quality Tips in Dark Color.
T4D	Medium to heavy body, otherwise same as T4F.
	Fair Quality Tips Mixed in Color.
T4M	Average quality of T4.
	Fair Quality Tips in Green Color.
T4G	Quality of T4, except maturity.
	Low Quality Tips in Brown Color.
T5F	Unmixed in color. Tolerance, 40% injury and 25% Lugs of the quality of X4 or better.
	Low Quality Tips in Dark Color.
T5D	Specifications same as T5F.
	Low Quality Tips Mixed in Color.
T5M	Average quality of T5.
	Low Quality Tips in Green Color.
T5G	Quality of T5.

Sec. 29.105 Lug grades (X-group).

General Specifications: All grades of the X group must be sound and normally free of dirt and other foreign matter.

U. S. GRADE	GRADE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
	Choice Quality Lugs in Light Color.
X1L	Fairly smooth, oily, very ripe, thin to medium body, strong, harmonizing in quality and color.
	Choice Quality Lugs in Brown Color.
X1F	Medium to heavy body, otherwise same as X1L.
	Choice Quality Lugs in Dark Color.
X1D	Heavy body, otherwise same as X1L.
	Fine Quality Lugs in Light Color.
X2L	Not coarse, fairly oily, ripe, thin to medium body, fairly strong, unmingled in quality and color.
	Fine Quality Lugs in Brown Color.
X2F	Medium to heavy body, otherwise same as X2L.
	Fine Quality Lugs in Dark Color.
X2D	Heavy body, otherwise same as X2L.
	Good Quality Lugs in Light Color.
X3L	Not coarse, fairly ripe, thin to medium body, normal strength, unmixed in quality and color. Tolerance 10% dead and trashy leaves.

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Lug grades (X-group) (Cont'd).

U. S. GRADE	GRADE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
	Good Quality Lugs in Brown Color.
X3F	Medium to heavy body, otherwise same as X3L.
	Good Quality Lugs in Dark Color.
X3D	Fairly heavy body, otherwise same as X3L.
	Good Quality Lugs Mixed in Color.
X3M	Heavy body, quality of X3 or better.
	Good Quality Lugs in Dark Green Color.
X3G	Heavy body, quality of X3 or better, except maturity.
	Fair Quality Lugs in Light Color.
X4L	Not tender, unmixed in color. Tolerance, 20% dead and trashy leaves.
	Fair Quality Lugs in Brown Color.
X4F	Specifications same as X4L.
	Fair Quality Lugs in Dark Color.
X4D	Specifications same as X4L.
	Fair Quality Lugs Mixed in Color.
X4M	Medium body, average quality of X4.
	Fair Quality Green Lugs.
X4G	Medium body, quality of X4.
	Low Quality Lugs in Light Color.
X5L	Unmixed in color. Tolerance, 40% dead and trashy leaves.
	Low Quality Lugs in Brown Color.
X5F	Specifications same as X5L.
	Low Quality Lugs in Dark Color.
X5D	Specifications same as X5L.
	Low Quality Lugs Mixed in Color
X5M	Average quality of X5.
	Low Quality Green Lugs.
X5G	Quality of X5.

Sec. 29.106 Nondescript and scrap (N & S groups).

U. S. GRADE	GRADE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
N	Nondescript, as defined.
S	Scrap, as defined.

Sec. 29.107 Terms defined.

For the purposes of these official standard grades, the following terms shall be construed, respectively, to mean:

Airdried. The condition of unfermented tobacco as customarily prepared for storage under natural atmospheric conditions by rehangng in well-ventilated houses after it is cured and stripped.

Body. The thickness of a leaf or weight per unit of surface.

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Terms defined (Cont'd.).

Class. A major division of tobacco based on characteristics caused by varieties, soils, or climatic conditions, and the methods of cultivation, harvesting, or curing.

Clean. Normally free of dirt and other foreign matter.

Condition. The state of tobacco in storage, or in relation to its preparation for storage, with reference to its manner of preparation or its degree of fermentation, such as Undried, Airdried, Steamdried, Sweating, Sweated, and Resweated.

Crude. Very immature or the lowest degree of maturity. Any tobacco of which 50% or more of its surface has a positive green color is crude.

Cured. Tobacco dried of its sap by either natural or artificial processes.

Damage. The effect of mold, must, rot, black-rot, or other fungous or bacterial diseases which attack tobacco in its cured state, including tobacco having the odor of mold, must, or rot.

Decayed. Damaged to the extent of 20% or more.

Fire-cured. Tobacco cured under artificial atmospheric conditions by the use of open fires from which the smoke and fumes of burning wood are partly absorbed by the tobacco.

Foreign matter. Any substance or material extraneous to tobacco, including dirt, sand, stalks, suckers, straw, strings, et cetera.

Form. The stage of preparation of tobacco, such as Unstemmed and Stemmed.

Grade. A subdivision of a type according to group and quality, and according to color when it is of sufficient importance to be treated as a separate factor.

Green. Tobacco of which 20% or more of its leaf surface is predominantly green in color.

Greenish-tinge. Tobacco of which 20% or more of its leaf surface has a decided greenish-cast or tobacco which is not 20% green but which has 20% of green and greenish-cast combined.

Group. A division of a type covering several closely related grades based on the general quality of the tobacco, including body, the percentage of injury, and other characteristics.

Injury. Hurt or impairment from any cause except damage. Injured tobacco shall include dead, burnt, hail-cut, or ragged tobacco or tobacco that has been torn or broken, frozen or frosted, sunburned or scalded, scorched or fire-killed, bulk-burnt or steam-burnt, pole-burnt or house-burnt, bleached or bruised; or tobacco containing discolored or deformed leaves; or tobacco hurt by insects; or tobacco having an odor foreign to the type; or tobacco affected by wild-fire, rust, frog-eye, mosaic, frenching, sand-drown, or other similar diseases.

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Terms defined (Cont'd.).

Leaf-scrap. Unstemmed scrap, which is a by-product from handling unstemmed tobacco consisting of loose and tangled whole or broken leaves.

Lugs. Any lot of tobacco, except nondescript and scrap, composed chiefly of comparatively thin and lean leaves, and showing a material amount of injury of the kind characteristic of leaves grown near the ground; or any tobacco, except nondescript and scrap, injured or containing lug leaves, in excess of the tolerance allowed in the grades of the B, C, and T groups.

Mixed (In color). A lot of tobacco which contains 30% or more leaves of distinctly different color from the run of the lot, including variegated leaves unless such leaves are indicated by a special factor, and which contains less than 20% of green.

Mixed (In quality). A lot of tobacco which contains 30% or more leaves of distinctly different group or quality from the run of the lot.

Nested. Any lot of tobacco which has been so loaded, packed, or arranged as to conceal foreign matter or tobacco of inferior grade, quality, or condition, including lots of tobacco which contain damaged, injured, tangled, or other inferior tobacco which cannot be readily detected upon inspection on account of the way the lot was packed or arranged.

Nondescript. Any nested or decayed tobacco; or muddy or extremely dirty tobacco; or tobacco containing an unusual amount of foreign matter; or tobacco containing over 30% of crude leaves; or tobacco infested with live tobacco beetles or other injurious insects; or wet tobacco; or uncured tobacco including fat-stems and wet-butts; or very inferior lots of tobacco of a quality that is not ordinarily marketed; or tobacco having characteristics distinctly foreign to the type.

Quality. A division of group, forming the second factor of a grade, based upon the relative degree of one or more of the elements of quality in tobacco.

Resweated. The condition of tobacco which has passed through a second fermentation under abnormally high temperatures, or re fermented with a relatively high percentage of moisture, including tobacco which has been dipped or reconditioned after its first fermentation and put through a forced or artificial sweat.

Scrap. A by-product from handling tobacco in both the unstemmed and stemmed forms, consisting chiefly of portions of tobacco leaves, except stems, which accumulate in warehouses, packing and conditioning plants, and stemmeries.

Side. Any distinct characteristic of tobacco; or a certain phase of quality, color, or length as compared with some other phase of quality, color, or length.

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Terms defined (Cont'd.).

Size. The length of tobacco leaves.

Sound. Free of damage.

Special factor. Any side of a grade, or characteristic of importance, varying from or not covered by the specifications of the grade.

Steamdried. The condition of unfermented tobacco as customarily prepared for storage by means of a redrying machine or other steam-conditioning equipment.

Stem. The midrib of a tobacco leaf.

Stemmed. A form of tobacco from which the stems or midribs have been removed, including both strips and strip-scrap.

Stems. A tobacco by-product composed of the midribs of tobacco leaves.

Stouts. A term used to designate tobacco of the heavy leaf or B group.

Strips. The sides of tobacco leaves from which the stems have been removed.

Strip-scrap. Stemmed scrap or stemless scrap, which is a by-product from stemming tobacco or handling strips, consisting chiefly of portions of strips.

Subgrade. Any grade modified by a special factor or subgroup symbol.

Subgroup. A group formed by the substitution of a different group symbol to denote a modification of the specifications or to indicate a certain side or characteristic of the tobacco.

Sweated. The condition of tobacco which has passed through one or more fermentations natural to tobacco packed with a normal percentage of moisture.

Sweating. The condition of tobacco in the process of fermentation.

Thins. A term used to designate tobacco of the thin leaf or C group.

Tips. Short leaf or leaf and tips under U. S. Size 44.

Type. A division of a class of tobacco having certain common characteristics and closely related grades. Tobacco which has the same characteristics and corresponding qualities, colors, and lengths, shall be treated as one type, regardless of any factors of historical or geographical nature which cannot be determined by an examination of the tobacco.

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Terms defined (Cont'd.).

Type 21. That type of fire-cured tobacco known as Eastern fire-cured, Virginia Fire-cured, or Virginia Smoked, produced principally in the Piedmont and mountain sections of Virginia. The terms "Eastern", "Dark" and "Dark-fired" are frequently ambiguously used in referring to this and other types of fire-cured tobacco.

Type 22. That type of fire-cured tobacco known as Southern Fire-cured, Southern Smoked, or Kentucky Broadleaf, including fire-cured One-sucker of the Southern District; produced principally in a section east of the Tennessee River in southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee. The term "Eastern" is frequently used locally in referring to this type.

Type 23. That type of fire-cured tobacco known as Western Fire-cured, or Western Smoked, including the fire-cured One-sucker of the Western District; produced principally in a section West of the Tennessee River in Kentucky, and extending into Tennessee.

Type 24. That type of fire-cured tobacco known as Northern Fire-cured, Northern Smoked, or Stemming, including the fire-cured tobacco of the Green River District; produced principally in the Madisonville area of Kentucky.

Undried. The condition of unfermented tobacco which has not been airdried, or steamdried.

Uniformity. One of the elements of quality in tobacco having reference to the consistency of a lot with respect to other elements of quality or color. The following are the specifications for the several degrees of uniformity showing for each degree the percentage of a lot that may be of a distinctly different group, quality, or color from the run of the lot; (a) Uniform, less than 5%; (b) Harmonizing, less than 10%; (c) Unmingled, less than 20%; (d) Mingled or Unmixed, less than 30%; and (e) Mixed, over 30%. When uniformity with respect to quality is specified it also includes uniformity with respect to group, but when uniformity with respect to color only is specified it does not include uniformity with respect to group or quality.

Unsound. Damaged under 20%.

Unstemmed. A form of tobacco from which the stems or midribs have not been removed, including both whole-leaf and leaf-scrap.

Variegated. Having a diversity of contrasting colors or tints within a leaf; including leaves which are grey, mottled, bleached, or stained; or leaves which do not blend with the normal colors of the type.

OFFICIAL STANDARD GRADES FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Sec. 29.108 Rules.

The application of these official standard grades shall be in accordance with the following rules:

Rule 1. Each grade shall be treated as a subdivision of a particular type and when the grade is stated in an inspection certificate, the type shall also be stated.

Rule 2. The determination of grade shall be based upon a thorough examination of a lot of tobacco or an official sample of the lot.

Rule 3. In determining the grade of a lot of tobacco, the lot as a whole shall be considered, and minor irregularities which do not affect over one per cent of the tobacco shall be overlooked.

Rule 4. Unsound tobacco shall be treated as a subgrade by placing the special factor letter "U" after or above the grade mark. For example: if a lot of tobacco is unsound but otherwise meets the specifications of B4F, it shall be graded B4F-U.

Rule 5. When a lot of tobacco, unmixed in color, is on the marginal line between two colors so that there is a question as to which is the predominant color, it shall be placed in the color with which the tobacco best corresponds with respect to body and maturity.

Rule 6. Any lot of tobacco shall be regarded as meeting the specifications of a certain grade when the tobacco is not lower in any degree of quality than that stated in the specifications of such grade. The degree of uniformity specified for a particular grade governs the percentage of a lot which must meet the specifications with respect to other degrees of quality.

Rule 7. Any lot of tobacco which clearly and fully meets the specifications of two or more grades shall be placed in the highest one of such grades; but any lot of tobacco which is on the marginal line between two or more grades so that the grade cannot be determined by applying other rules, shall be placed in the lowest grade in question.

Rule 8. The grade assigned to any lot of tobacco shall be a true representation of the tobacco at the time of inspection and certification thereof.

Rule 9. If, at any time, it is found that a lot of tobacco does not comply with the description and specifications of the grade previously assigned, it shall not thereafter be represented as being of such grade.

Rule 10. Any special factor symbol, approved for the purpose by the Agricultural Marketing Service, may be used after or above a grade mark to show a peculiar side or characteristic of the tobacco.

OFFICIAL STANDARD FOR FIRE-CURED TOBACCO

Rules (Cont'd).

Rule 11. Length shall be stated in connection with each grade of the A, B, and C groups, and may be stated in connection with the grades of other groups. For this purpose, U. S. Tobacco Sizes shall be used.

Done at Washington, D. C. this

29th day of November

(DEPT. SEAL)

1939. Witness my hand and the
seal of the Department of
Agriculture.

(Signed)

H. A. Wallace
Secretary of Agriculture

